(a) whether it is a fact that the number of people affected with Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is increasing every year in the slum areas of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for failure of Government programmes in this respect;

(c) the details of achievements of nationwide programmes to control AIDS in the country; and

(d) the immediate steps being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) No information is available about increase in number of people affected by AIDS in slum areas of Delhi.

(c) and (d) The steps taken to prevent and control HIV/AIDS and major achievements of the National AIDS Control Programme Phase III since July 2007 are as follows:

1. Scaling up HIV testing to 5089 ICTCs wherein 0.01 crore persons were tested in 2008-09.

2. Scaling up HIV treatment facilities to 227 ART centres where in 2,80,954 patients are receiving free treatment.

3. Scaling up STI treatment through public and private facilities; 66.7 lakh STI episodes treated in 2008-09.

4. Support to 1092 blood banks including 113 Blood Component Separation units and 10 Model Blood Banks established. A total of 74 lakh blood units collected in 2008-09.

5. A total of 212.31 crore condoms distributed in 2008-09 for preventing transmission HIV.

6. IEC activities launched focusing on behaviour change. The Red Ribbon Express project completed on 1st December 2008 after travelling over 27,000 kms. Covering 180 districts/halt stations. The project covered 41,334 villages and reached out to 62 lakh people. It has been relauched again on 1st December 2009.

7. A total of 1247 Targeted Intervention have been launched in various States to cover different High Risk Groups.

Bill on HIV/AIDS

2087. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been proposing to introduce HIV/AIDS bill from 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons for its delay; and

(c) by when Government proposes to introduce the Bill in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Yes. The draft of the Bill on HIV/AIDS is, at present, under finalisation. However, no firm date can be indicated at this stage.

Acute shortage of vaccines

2088. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of vaccines in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to make available adequate quantity of vaccines?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of vaccines at present under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in the country. However, during the year 2008, there were some shortages of Diphtheria-Pertusis-Tetanus (DPT), Tetanus Toxoid (TT) and Diphtheria Tetanus (DT) for few months in some States due to non-fulfillment of supply commitments by manufacturers.

(c) To meet the requirement of vaccines, procurement is made from Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) as well as indigenous private sector units through a competitive bidding process.

Efficacy of pictorial warnings on cigarette packets

2089. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Mumbai-based health research organisation's recent survey report reveals that pictorial warnings on tobacco products like cigarette have proved ineffective with sales of cigarettes growing in the last two quarters;

(b) whether the habitual smokers deciphered the black and white X-ray picture of decaying lungs on cigarette packs as waterfalls between two mountains or hazy shadows of two people facing each other;

(c) whether illegal and smuggling sector has grown dramatically, not complying with pictorial warning rules apart from evading excise and VAT duties; and

(d) whether unlike India, western countries where graphic health warnings are carried on cigarettes have recorded decline on the number of tobacco users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) and (b) A survey was conducted by Healis Seksaria Institute of Public Health, Mumbai, and published in October, 2009 concluded that the pictorial warning do not serve desired purpose since they are not properly understood.

(c) There is no such evidence available with this Ministry.